

Urges House to Swiftly Pass Senate Approved Funding Next Week

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Harry E. Mitchell today wrote to Speaker Nancy Pelosi, urging her to bring an emergency border security funding package to the House floor when the House reconvenes next week. The package was approved by the U.S. Senate last night.

The bipartisan legislation, H.R. 5875, includes \$600 million in emergency border security funding in an effort to help stop the flow of illegal immigrants and drugs, and was approved by voice vote. If enacted, it would provide \$254 million for border personnel, including \$176 million for 1,000 new Border Patrol agents and \$29 million for 250 new Customs and Border Protection officers. In addition, the bill would provide \$32 million for two unmanned aerial drones as well as \$50 million for additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel.

"Arizonans have waited long enough for additional border security, and this urgently needed relief ought not be put off any longer. The House should act on this legislation as quickly as possible," said Mitchell. "More will be needed, but this would be an important step in the right direction. The federal government has a responsibility to secure the border and fix our broken immigration system, but hasn't done so, and Arizona continues to shoulder the burden."

Earlier this year, Mitchell introduced bipartisan legislation to immediately deploy thousands of additional National Guard troops to the border. [Source: [Mitchell Release](#), May 21, 2010]. H.R. 5357, the Deploy National Guard Troops to the Border Act, would deploy a minimum of 3,000 additional National Guard troops to help secure the border. Mitchell has previously called on both Presidents Bush and Obama to place additional guardsmen and resources to secure

border. [Sources:

[chell Release](#)

, August 9, 2007;

[Mitchell Release](#)

, May 7, 2008;

[Letter to President Obama](#)

, March 25, 2009;

[Mitchell Release](#)

, July 6, 2009

[Letter to the President Obama](#)

, March 30, 2010]

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More recently, Mitchell introduced, along with Rep. Brian Bilbray (R-CA), the bi-partisan Stop the Drop Houses Act, H.R. 5769, a bill to close a federal loop hole and help authorities fight the drop house epidemic in the Valley, which are magnets for crime and violence frequently used by Mexican cartels as way stations for their illegal smuggling operations. [Source: [Phoenix Business Journal](#), July 19, 2010]

Below is the text of Mitchell's letter to Speaker Pelosi.

August 6, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi

Speaker

United States House of Representatives

U.S. Capitol Building, H-232

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

Last night, the Senate approved a package of vitally needed border security enhancements as part of H.R. 5875. I urge you to bring this bill to the floor for a vote when the House reconvenes next week.

This legislation would provide \$254 million for border personnel, including \$176 million for 1,000 new Border Patrol agents and \$29 million for 250 new Customs and Border Protection officers. In addition, the bill would provide \$32 million for two unmanned aerial drones as well as \$50 million for additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel.

This bipartisan measure passed the Senate by voice vote, and I believe there would be overwhelming support for it here in the House.

Arizonans have waited long enough for additional border security, and this urgently needed relief ought not be put off any longer. The House should act on this legislation as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Harry E. Mitchell

Member of Congress

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